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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/800,419 | 03/12/2004 | Mark Jolley | 82550 | 7055 |
| 22242 | 7590 | 07/27/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| FITCH EVEN TABIN AND FLANNERY 120 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET SUITE 1600 CHICAGO, IL 60603-3406 | | | ESTRADA, ANGEL R | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2831 | |

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/800,419

Applicant(s)

JOLLEY, MARK

Examiner

Angel R. Estrada

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 13 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-12 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 1-3 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Cross et al (US 5,934,919). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cross et al (US 5,934,919; hereinafter Cross).

Regarding claim 1, Cross discloses a cover (see figure 7) for a socket of an electrical outlet, the cover (see figure 7) comprising: a substantially planar frame (14) having an opening (see figure 9) generally aligned with the socket (17) of the electrical outlet (13); a door (52) shiftable between a blocking position (see figure 8) generally blocking access to the opening and an open position (see figure 7) generally permitting access to the opening; a locking mechanism (60,62) operable connected to the door (52), the locking mechanism (60,62) movable between a locking position substantially

preventing shifting of the door (52) from the blocking position to the open position and an unlocking position (see figure 7a) permitting shifting of the door (52) from the blocking position to the open position, an actuator element (62, as seen in figure 7a and 7b) of the locking mechanism (60, 62) movable in a shifting direction for movement of the locking mechanism from the locking position to the unlocking position, the shifting direction being generally perpendicular to the plane of the frame (see figures 7a and 7b); and a translation element (57,58) of the locking mechanism movable in a translation direction for shifting of the door (52) from the blocking position to the unblocking position, the translation direction being generally parallel to the plane of the frame (see figures 7 and 8).

Regarding claim 2, Cross discloses the cover for a socket of an electrical outlet (see figure 7), wherein the actuator element (62, see figure 7) of the locking mechanism comprises a locking element (64, 65) engagable with a locking feature of the frame (see figures 8 and 7b), whereby when the locking element engages the locking feature of the frame shifting of the door from the locking position to the unlocking position is substantially prevented (see figures 7a and 7b).

Regarding claim 3, Cross discloses the cover for a socket of an electrical outlet (see figure 7) wherein the locking element (64, 65) is biased into engagement with the locking feature by a biasing element (see figures 7a and 7b).

Regarding claim 13, Cross discloses a cover for a socket of an electrical outlet (see figure 7), the cover comprising: a substantially planar frame (14) having at least one opening (16) generally aligned with the socket of the electrical outlet; at least one

door (52) shiftable between a blocking position generally blocking access to the opening and an open position generally permitting access to the opening (see figures 7 and 8); locking means (60, 62) integral with the door (52) and movable between a locking position substantially preventing shifting of the door (52) from the blocking position to the open position and an unlocking position permitting shifting of the door (52) from the blocking position to the open position (see figures 7 and 8), actuator means (62) movable in a shifting direction to move the locking means from the locking position to the unlocking position (see figure 7a and 7b); and translation means (57, 58) movable in a translation direction to shift the door (52) from the blocking position to the unblocking position (see figure 7).

Regarding claim 19, Cross discloses the cover (see figure 7) for an electrical outlet, wherein the translation means (57, 58) is integral with the door and locking means (see figure 7).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 14-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for the indication of the allowability of claims 14-18 is:

Regarding claims 14-18, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations a cover for a socket of an electrical outlet wherein the translation element accessible via an opening separate from the opening positioned to be aligned with the socket of the electrical outlet.

This limitation is found in claims 14-18, and is neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

4. Claims 4-12 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claims 4-12, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations a cover for a socket of an electrical outlet wherein the biasing element comprises an arm having an end attached to the door and another end having the locking element attached thereto.

Regarding claim 20, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations a cover for a socket wherein the translation means includes a translation element accessible via an opening in the frame from the opening generally aligned with the socket.

These limitations are found in claims 4-12 and 20, and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Conclusion

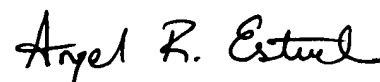
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext: 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

July 19, 2005


Angel R. Estrada
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 2831